Mumbai, Air India and Indian Airlines cancelled 123 and 294 flights respectively. Indian Airlines/Alliance Air and Air India have suffered a loss of Rs. 4.09 crores and Rs. 17.09 crores respectively. According to information given by the private scheduled airlines, a total of 951 flights were cancelled by them and they suffered a loss of Rs. 24.83 crores.

(d) Adequate drainage system has been provided for disposal of the rain water to prevent the flooding on the runways at the airports. The drainage systems are being improved from time to time whenever deficiency is noticed due to unprecedented heavy rains.

Damage to Vishakhapatnam Airport

2140. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent incessant rains in Andhra Pradesh, Vishakapatnam airport was inundated in water for several days;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up upgradation of Vishakhapatnam airport with the help of Navy and State Government of Andhra Pradesh with an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crores;

(d) whether a new terminal building and runway is also being constructed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total rainfall recorded on 14th and 15th October, 2005 in Vishakhapatnam was 236 mm whereas the average monthly rainfall is 204 mm for the month of October. As a result, the discharge from various adjoining hills and the rivulets was very high. The release of water from Mehadrigedda Reservoir located approximately 8 kms from the airport so as to maintain safe level also added additional quantity of water to cause flood at the airport.

(c) Yes, Sir. Upgradation work at Vishakhapatnam airport has been taken up jointly by Navy Wing of Ministry of Defence, State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Airports Authority of India (AAI) at an estimated cost of Rs. 191.52 crores.

(d) and (e) The upgradation works include construction of a new integrated terminal building with modern facilities, new runway of 10,000 feet length, new apron, strengthening of existing runway, perimeter road and boundary wall.

Open sky agreements with South Asian countries

2141. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed open skies over South Asia recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of each country from South Asia in this regard; and

(d) the decisions arrived at so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) During the SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November 2005, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has offered the facility of daily services for the designated airlines of SAARC member countries to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore and unlimited access to 18 tourists gateways in India with reciprocal rights to the Indian carrieres.

(c) and (d) While this offer stands formalized with Sri Lanka, it is yet to be formally taken up with the remaining SAARC countries.

Development of airports in Rajasthan

2142. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for development of domestic or International airports at Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur and Jaiselmer in Rajasthan;